

UNDERHILL PLANNING COMMISSION

Thursday, May 14, 2020 @ 6:00 PM

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING (HELD REMOTELY)

Minutes

Attendance

Planning Commissioners:

Commissioner Johnathan Drew, Chair*
Commissioner David Edson, Vice Chair*
Commissioner Patrick Lamphere (Joined Late)*
Commissioner Kail Romanoff*
Commissioner Val Stori*
Commissioner Brian Tijan*
Commissioner Lea Van Winkle*

Commissioner Sandy Wilmot*

Staff/Municipal Representatives:

Andrew Strniste, Planning Director*

Others Present:

None

* This symbol denotes that this party joined via Go-To-Meeting. To view the recording of the evening's meeting, visit the Mt. Mansfield Community Television website: <http://mtmansfieldctv.org>, or at the following link: <https://archive.org/details/underhill-planning-05142020>.

[6:07] Chair J. Drew called the meeting to order. No general public was in attendance to provide public comment. No adjustments to the agenda were made. Staff Member Strniste explained that due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic, the meeting was held in accordance with Vermont State Law remotely. He informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded, and will be subsequently uploaded to the <http://mtmansfieldctv.org>.

AGENDA ITEM: NEW BUSINESS – NATURAL RESOURCES MAPPING

[6:08] The Commission discussed the upcoming Natural Resources Mapping and Inventory Committee's meeting and the expected end product – a natural resources map. Commissioner Wilmot advised that Ryan Och may be a good resource, as he has experience with natural resource mapping in the past. Chair J. Drew informed the Commission that he views the project as the Planning Commission collaborating with the Conservation Commission to develop the map. The Commission discussed the consequences of the natural resources map, as well as agreed to not assume the outcomes until the information is obtained.

AGENDA ITEM: NEW BUSINESS – POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

[6:14] The Commission then discussed potential implementation projects they could pursue in the interim as they await for adoption of the new Town Plan. Discussion ensued about implementing strategies of a Plan that has yet to be vetted by the public. A consensus agreed that the vague language from the previous old Town Plan may be consistent with the specific strategies of the new Town Plan, thereby allowing the Commission to pursue SOME strategies in the new Town Plan. At the very least, the Commission agreed that data gathering is a step the Commission can take in the interim. Commissioner Wilmot had prepared a list of potential implementation strategies in the new Town Plan related to day care, infrastructure and economic development that could potentially be implemented. Chair J. Drew recommended reducing the list to three tasks to better focus the Commission. Staff Member Strniste informed the Commission that he would redistribute the list (with one additional recommendation from Commissioner Stori) to

them, and if they prioritize their top 5 tasks, he would arrange a method to get the top 3 tasks for the Planning Commission to work on starting at the next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: OLD BUSINESS – PLANNING COMMISSION VACANCY

[6:35] The Commission briefly discussed the Planning Commission vacancy. Staff Member Strniste recommend Chris Poley who had recently posted on *Front Porch Forum* about running for Selectboard if it was a five member Board. Commissioner Van Winkle informed the Commission that she would inquire with him.

AGENDA ITEM: OLD BUSINESS – 2020-2021 WORKPLAN & SCHEDULE; 2020 TOWN PLAN

[6:35] The Commission reviewed their workplan for the upcoming year (2020-2021). Currently, the Commission is in limbo due to the COVID-19 virus. Staff Member Strniste also provided updates relating to the 2020 Town Plan. The Commission agreed that determining the three implementation items will help focus the Commission. Commissioner Van Winkle will seek to obtain data relating to Wi-Fi connectivity. Staff Member Strniste then provided an update related to the Historical Society's recommendations pertaining to the 2020 Town Plan. The Commission agreed that having a representative from the Historical Society at a Planning Commission meeting would be helpful.

AGENDA ITEM: APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETINGS' MINUTES

[6:54] Commissioner Van Winkle made a motion to approve the minutes of April 30, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Wilmot and approved unanimously. Prior to adjourning, Commissioner Edson informed the Commission that the Public Service Board denied a solar project in the Bennington because the project did not comply with the Town's Town Plan. Commissioner Edson inquired about the rationale as to why the project was denied. Staff Member Strniste informed the Commission that he would see if he could find the decision.

[7:01] Commissioner Van Winkle made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Edson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted By:
Andrew Strniste, Planning Director

The minutes of the May 14, 2020 meeting were accepted this ____ day of _____, 2020.

John Drew, Planning Commission Chair

New Action Items

- ☐ *Planning Commission* – Prioritize top 5 implementation strategies and send to Staff Member Strniste.
- ☐ *Staff Member Strniste* – Determine which 3 implementation strategies the Commission will pursue.
- ☐ *Staff Member Strniste* – Research the recent decision by the Public Service Board regarding the denied solar project in Bennington.
- ☐ *Commissioner Van Winkle* – Inquire with Chris Poley about joining the Planning Commission.
- ☐ *Commissioner Van Winkle* – Explore and gather data pertaining Wi-Fi capabilities within the Town of Underhill.

Old, Incomplete Action Items

- ☐ *Staff Member Strniste* – Inquire with Katherine Sonnick about the cost of create the Jericho natural resources plan.
- ☐ *Staff Member Strniste* – Update Planning Commission Calendar.

Completed Action Items

- ☒ *Planning Commission* – Review implementation plan and look for projects that they can begin research on.
- ☒ *Planning Commission* – Consider implications relating to the Natural Resources Map.
- ☒ *Staff Member Strniste* – Email Commission the recommended changes by CCRPC.
- ☒ *Staff Member Strniste* – Review input from Historical Society.
- ☒ *Staff Member Strniste* – Inquire with Brad Holden to see if the Selectboard reappointed Commissioners Drew and Stori.